

Dear Motorcyclist:

We at Arizona's Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) are pleased to provide this comprehensive Motorcycle Operator Manual to convey the essentials for crash avoidance and safe riding information to operate a motorcycle on Arizona highways.

The mix of motor vehicles on our streets and highways creates special hazards to motorcyclists, especially the beginning riders, therefore you need to know how to ride safely, defensively and lawfully. It is important that you know your abilities and the capabilities of the motorcycle, and ride within those limits.

Motorcycling can be an enjoyable and safe experience. To make it even safer, some things you can do to make yourself visible to others on the streets and highways are:

- Wear bright colored clothing
- Ride with your headlight on
- Wear protective clothing, including a helmet and eye protection
- Avoid alcohol and drugs when riding
- Check your motorcycle before riding
- Enroll in a basic or experienced rider course.

Arizona is one of the fastest growing states in the nation, and if you ride your motorcycle for pleasure or basic transportation, rider/driver safety is very important. With your help, we can make motorcycles a safer form of transportation.

We look forward to providing you with outstanding customer service, whether you call, visit one of our offices or visit www.dot.state.az.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacey K. Stanton".

Stacey K. Stanton
Director
Motor Vehicle Division

P.S. This manual was designed as a basic resource for motorcycle riders. We welcome your written comments on the material contained within this manual. Please forward your comments to PO Box 2100, Phoenix AZ 85001-2100, or visit www.dot.state.az.us.

ARIZONA LICENSING INFORMATION

Operating a motorcycle safely requires special skills in addition to a thorough knowledge of traffic laws and of registration and licensing requirements. This manual supplements information contained in the *Arizona Customer Service Guide and Driver License Manual* and provides useful information for all motorcyclists regardless of riding experience. It presents safe driving practices and techniques developed by the national Motorcycle Safety Foundation and provides information to help you obtain an Arizona driver license. It is not intended as an official reference.

The *Customer Service Guide and Driver License Manual* is online at www.dot.state.az.us, or may be requested by phone at: Phoenix 602-255-0072, Tucson 520-629-9808, elsewhere in Arizona 800-251-5866, (TDD Hearing and Speech Impaired: Phoenix 602-712-3222, elsewhere 800-324-5425).

Changes may have been made to the information contained in this publication since it was last revised. Please check the Motor Vehicle Division's *What's New* page at www.dot.state.az.us for updates.

ARIZONA'S DRIVER LICENSE

Arizona issues a driver license that does not expire until age 65. However, your photo and eye test will need to be updated every 12

years. Drivers 60 and over will receive a 5-year license.

Temporary residents such as out-of-state students and their family members, or military personnel and their family members may apply for a 5-year license regardless of age.

TYPES OF LICENSES

Licenses are issued by "class": M for motorcycle, G for graduated, D for operator, and A, B, C for commercial. If the class M license is combined with any other class of license, it will be added as an "endorsement" on the back of the current license.

Instruction Permits

If you are at least 15 years and 7 months of age you may be issued a motorcycle instruction permit.

With a permit you are prohibited from carrying passengers and operating a motorcycle on freeways or interstate highways or between sunset and sunrise, or at any time when there is not enough light to clearly see persons or vehicles at a distance of 500 feet.

The permit is valid for 6 months and can be renewed one time within a 24-month period.

Class M

A motorcycle license or endorsement is required to operate a

motorcycle or motor-driven cycle. You must be at least 16 to apply for a motorcycle license or endorsement.

An applicant for a motorcycle license or endorsement who is under 18 must have held an Arizona instruction permit for at least 5 months. The permit must be valid at the time of application. An applicant must also have satisfactorily completed a motorcycle driver education program that is approved by MVD, or the parent or guardian must certify in writing that the applicant has completed at least 25 hours of motorcycle driving practice.

An applicant holding an out-of-state motorcycle license or endorsement is exempt from the driver education/driving practice and instruction permit requirements.

Class G with an Endorsement

A graduated driver license with a motorcycle endorsement is issued to an applicant who is at least 16, but less than 18 years of age and is valid to operate any vehicle that does not require a commercial license.

The applicant must have held both an Arizona graduated instruction permit and an Arizona motorcycle instruction permit for at least 5 months. The permits must be valid at the time of application. An applicant must also have satisfactorily completed both a graduated and a motorcycle driver education pro-

gram approved by MVD or the parent or guardian must certify in writing that the applicant has completed at least 25 hours of supervised driving practice, including at least 5 hours at night and completed 25 hours of motorcycle driving practice.

An applicant holding an out-of-state driver license with a motorcycle endorsement is exempt from the driver education/driving practice and instruction permit requirements.

The holder of a graduated license is not required to obtain an operator license at age 18, but may choose to obtain one.

Class D with an Endorsement

An operator license with a motorcycle endorsement allows you to drive any vehicle that does not require a commercial license. You must be at least 18 years of age to apply for an operator license.

Class A, B or C with an Endorsement

A commercial driver license, (CDL), with a motorcycle endorsement allows you to drive heavy-weight vehicles, 26,001 lbs or more gross vehicle weight (GVW), vehicles capable of carrying 16 or more passengers (including the driver), or vehicles required to be placarded for hazardous material, in addition to a motorcycle. The minimum age for a commercial driver

license is 21. If you are at least 18, you may apply for an intrastate commercial driver license that is valid only in Arizona.

For additional information, see the *Commercial Driver License Manual*, available by calling one of the numbers at the beginning of this section.

RESTRICTIONS

If you test with a 100cc or less motorcycle, you will receive a “J” restriction. You must test with a motorcycle greater than 100cc to obtain an unrestricted license.

TESTS

MVD is responsible for screening and testing driver license applicants. This helps to ensure that Arizona drivers have the necessary knowledge and ability to safely handle the vehicles they will be driving.

Medical Screening

Assisted by the Arizona Medical Advisory Board, MVD has established medical standards for driver licensing. Several questions regarding your medical condition are included on the driver license application.

You must report to MVD any medical conditions that develop or worsen that may affect your ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. This must be done within five days of a change or as soon as the condition allows. The written report must

include: full name, address, date of birth, description of condition and signature. The report must be sent to: Mail Drop 818Z, Medical Review Program, PO Box 2100, Phoenix AZ 85001-2100; phone 623-925-5795; fax 623-925-9323.

Vision Screening

You may be given a simple vision exam. If you wear prescription glasses or contact lenses for distance vision, be sure to wear them. You must have uncorrected vision of 20/40 or better in at least one eye in order to obtain an unrestricted license. If you cannot meet this requirement without glasses or contact lenses, you will be given a license with an “A” restriction. An “A” restriction means you must always wear your glasses or contact lenses when driving. A test of visual field will also be given to check how far you can see to the side while keeping your eyes straight ahead.

In addition, drivers who visit an MVD office for vehicle title and registration services may be required to update this vision exam.

Written Tests

When applying for your first Arizona driver license or instruction permit with a motorcycle endorsement, you must pass a written motorcycle test based on the information contained in this manual, and a separate driver license test based on the information in the *Customer Service Guide and Driver License Manual*. One application

fee allows you 3 attempts to pass the tests in a 12-month period.

The driver license examination is also available in Spanish, Chinese Vietnamese and Korean. If you cannot read English or any of these languages well enough to take a written test, arrangements can be made for an oral examination in English. If you need an interpreter, you must provide one.

If you are renewing an Arizona license, you may have to take the written test.

Motorcycle Skills Test

The motorcycle skills test is a 10-15 minute demonstration of your riding ability that consists of performing maneuvers on an off-street, closed track as described in the following instructions.

If you have a current out-of-state motorcycle license in your possession, and the state that issued the license requires a motorcycle skills test similar to that given by Arizona, then you normally will not be required to take the test. However, you may be required to take a test anytime that you apply for an Arizona license.

Exercise Instructions

Stalls Engine — Points will be assessed each time you stall your engine.

Exercise 1 & 2 — Starting from a full stop, accelerate in a straight line to the end of the test track where you will make a sharp left turn. Stay within the lines and do

not put a foot down. Continue around the test track to exercise 2 which is a normal stop. Make a smooth non-skidding stop with your front tire in the painted box. Do not touch the line. Wait for a signal to continue.

Exercise 3 & 4 — Begin exercise 3, the cone weave, by riding to the left of the first cone, and continue weaving past all of the cones. Continue on to exercise 4, the U-turn. You will complete a right U-turn in the 20-foot marked area. (If your motorcycle is more than 500 cc, you will have 24 feet to complete the U-turn.) Stop and wait for a signal to continue.

Exercise 5 — From a full stop, accelerate in a straight line through the timing zone. Stop as fast as you safely can after your front tire crosses the second line. You will not lose points if you skid. Wait for a signal to continue. Your speed should be between 12-20 mph through the timing zone.

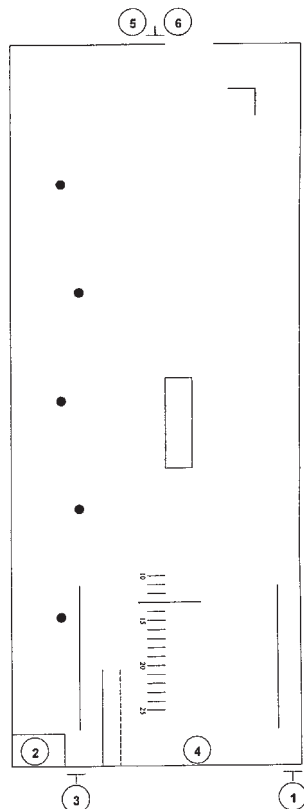
Exercise 6 — From a full stop, ride through the timing zone at 12-20 mph. When your front tire passes the second line, swerve right or left, as instructed. Avoid the obstacle line but stay inside the boundary line.

General Instructions

You have the right to stop the test at any time. Inform the examiner that you do not want to continue the test. The examiner will tell you the conditions for taking the test at a later date.

The examiner may stop the test if any of the following occurs:

- You fail to demonstrate basic control skills



- You accumulate more than the maximum number of points
- You commit an unsafe act
- You fail to understand or follow directions
- You fall or drop the motorcycle while on the test track.
- Mechanical failure
- Inclement weather, including temperatures 105° and above.

The motorcycle that you use for this test must be in good mechanical condition, be properly registered and have all equipment

required by Arizona law.

Protective Gear

Must be worn during testing:

Helmet — D.O.T. approved motorcycle helmet in good condition properly fastened (may waive if 18 or older)

Gloves — Designed for use when operating a motorcycle or other gloves that permit freedom to operate controls

Clothing — Long pants and a jacket or long sleeve shirt

Footwear — Boots or shoes that cover the ankle made of sturdy material that do not interfere with operation of motorcycle controls

Eye Protection — Face shield, goggles, safety glasses or protective windshield.

Testing Locations & Hours

For the nearest testing location visit www.dot.state.az.us or call Phoenix 602-255-0072, Tucson 520-629-9808, elsewhere in Arizona 800-251-5866, (TDD Hearing and Speech Impaired: Phoenix 602-712-3222, elsewhere 800-324-5425).

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

- Arizona law requires operators and passengers under 18 to wear a helmet that is safely secured.
- You are encouraged to use your headlight, on high beam, during the daylight hours to maximize your visibility. You may use a modulating headlight during the day, if the light modulates at least 200 cycles per minute.

- You must have at least one horn capable of emitting sound for at least 200 feet.
- A minimum of one rearview mirror is required.
- Riders are encouraged to equip the motorcycle with both hand and foot brakes, but Arizona law requires at least one brake.
- Fuel tanks must be properly closed by a cap or cover.
- Motorcycle operators are required to wear protective glasses, goggles or a transparent face shield, unless the motorcycle is equipped with a protective windshield. Windscreens on sport-style motorcycles are not considered protective windshields.
- Seat and footrests are required for motorcycle operators. Seat, footrests and handrails are required for the passenger. Passengers must be able to rest their feet on the foot pegs.
- Handlebars must be positioned so that the hands of the operator are not above the operator's shoulder height, when the operator is sitting astride the seat and the operator's hands are on the handlebar grips.

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY COURSES

As an alternative to the motorcycle skills test, you may take the *Motorcycle RiderCourse®* offered by MVD authorized schools throughout Arizona. The Certificate of Completion you will receive when you successfully complete the course eliminates the requirement to

take the knowledge and skill tests at MVD.

Beginning Riders

Motorcycle RiderCourse®:

Riding and Street Skills — This course is aimed at beginning riders of all ages. This is a “hands on” training program in a controlled, off-street environment. Each instructor is certified by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation and MVD. The course is approximately 20 hours long and most often scheduled on weekends throughout Arizona. The course fee includes the costs of motorcycle rental, helmet rental, insurance and classroom materials.

Experienced Riders

Experienced RiderCourse® —

This course gives participants an opportunity to increase their riding skills on their own motorcycle while examining defensive driving strategies. Advanced riding techniques in cornering, braking and swerving are presented and practiced. Emphasis is placed on accident avoidance techniques.

Locate A Course

To locate a motorcycle safety course nearest you, please call the Motorcycle Safety Foundation at 800-446-9227 or view a listing at www.dot.state.az.us, under Motor Vehicle Division, Driver Services.

Arizona Pages Revised June 2004
